

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. <sup>B</sup>4696

### 1. Name

Historic 902-938 North Durham Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 902-938 North Durham Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			X private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number telephone  
city, town state & zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check One

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check One

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of fifteen two-bay-wide, two-story early Italianate-style houses was built in 1874 by John Masson, a local carpenter, in partnership with David W. Wilson and E.B. Hunting, owners of a lumber business at Fleet and President Streets. Although a few of the houses retain their original painted brick facades, most have been covered with formstone.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide, and occupy lots 50' deep. Each house is two rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. The basement area was painted white, to imitate marble, as was common in houses of this type. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front of the house and at the rear corner. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by a row of simple scroll-sawn, grooved modillions, set against a plain frieze area. The window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and scroll-sawn tympanums. Several of the original 2/2 sash survive. The sills are wood. The doorway transom has a single light doorway and no original doors remain. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a single-light sash, also with a scroll-sawn tympanum. Each house is reached by two or three concrete or brick steps.

This row of twelve two-story, two-bay wide Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built in 1873 by John Masson, a local carpenter. Five of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted, and evidence remains that their basements were originally painted white, to imitate the marble used in more expensive houses. The remainder have been formstoned.

## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
		<input type="checkbox"/> law
		<input type="checkbox"/> literature
		<input type="checkbox"/> military
		<input type="checkbox"/> music
		<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
		<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion
		<input type="checkbox"/> science
		<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
		<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
		<input type="checkbox"/> theatre
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify

Specific dates 1874

Builder/Architect John Masson

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This simple form of small street house is typical of those built in the 1870s, often in neighborhoods of predominantly three story houses, like Union Square or the nearby Madison Square.

The houses were built by John Masson, listed in city directories as a carpenter, who built several rows in the immediate neighborhood, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's new neighborhoods of the 1870s and 1880s. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and north-east of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-or three-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 - \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900.

The houses are significant as representing a very plain type of small street house that was constructed to serve as low-cost or rental housing for the working class residents of the area, most of whom were German at the time of construction. Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties or sold them to a variety of small investors, interested in their rental income. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

In this particular case, Masson sold houses both to owner-occupants and to investors interested in their rental income. Early homeowners included Siegfried [Frederick] Wust, a cabinetmaker; Anton Kasper, a laborer; Frederick Krumrein, a grocer; and Robert Moore, also a grocer.

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date June 2000

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

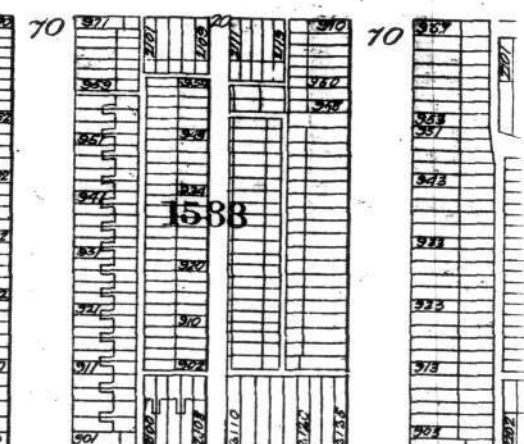
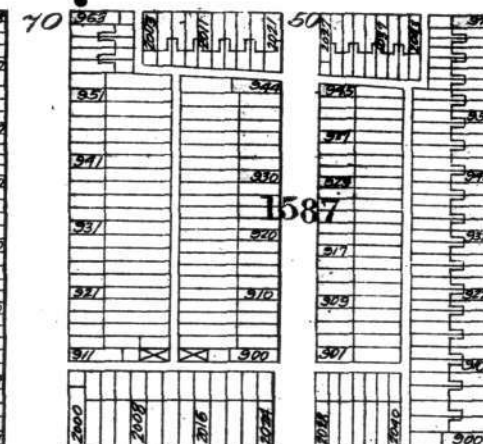
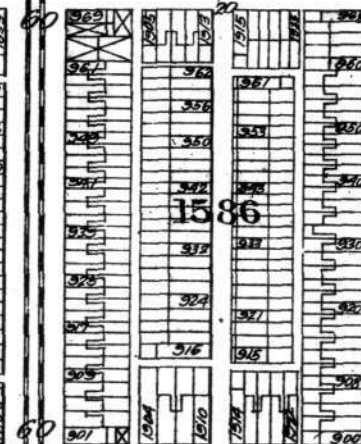
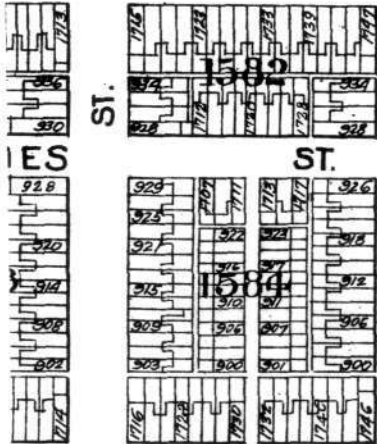
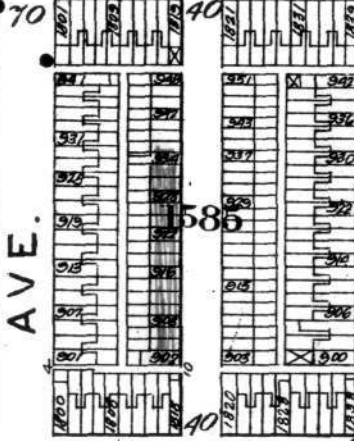
Return to:  
DHCP/DHCD  
Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

I-4696

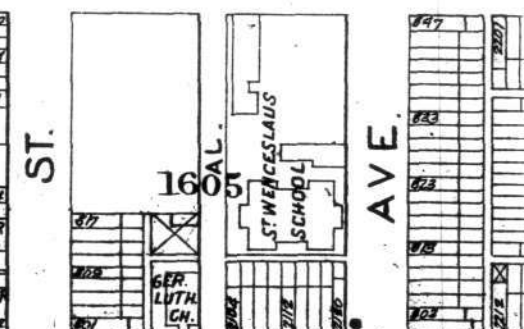
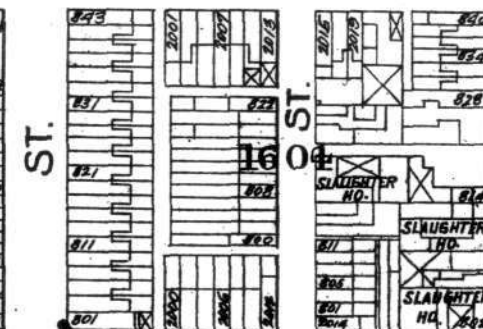
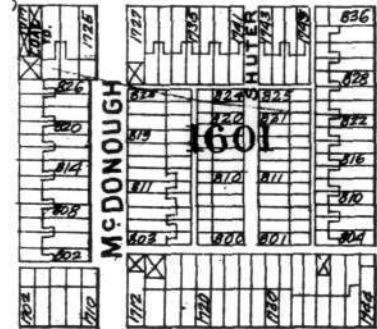
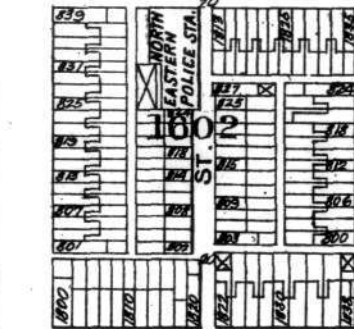
902-938 N. Duane St.

DACTO. MID

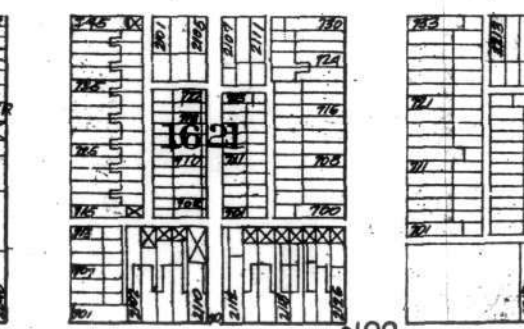
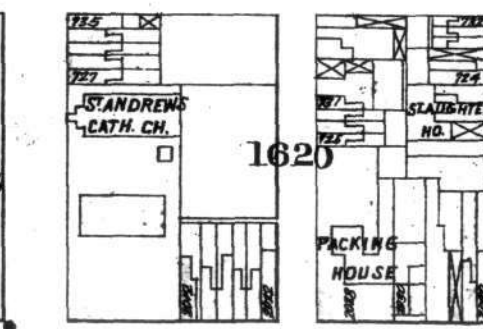
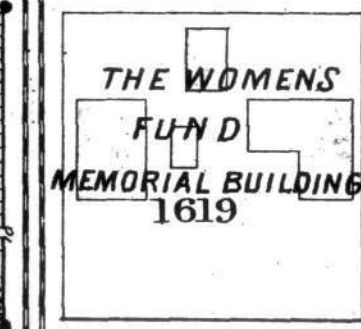
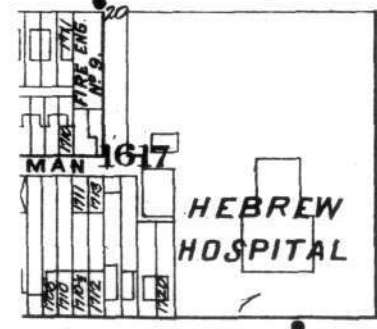
55 E. EAGER



68 ASHLAND



90 E. MADISON



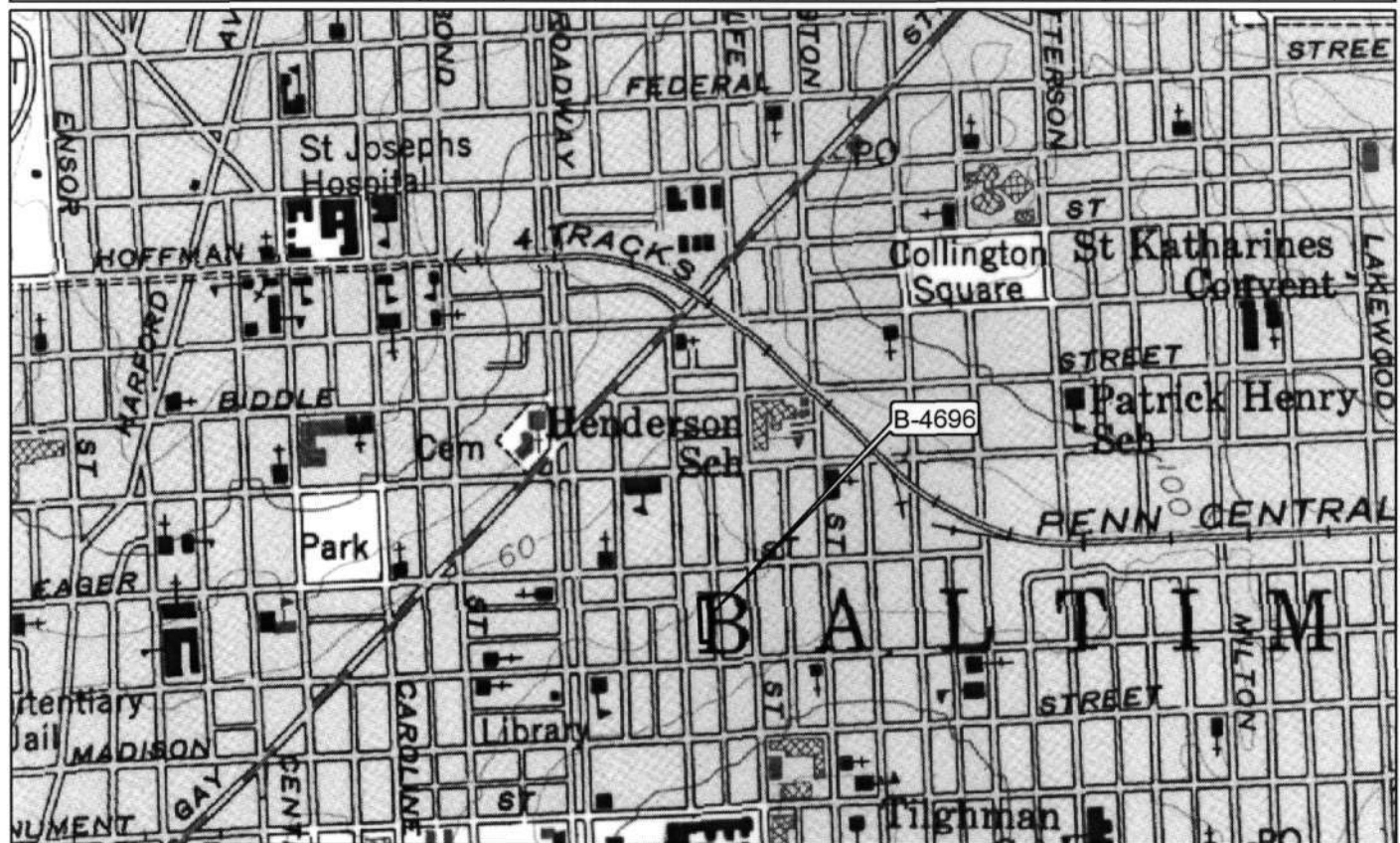
100 E. MONUMENT





B-4696  
902-938 N. Durham Street  
Block 1585, Lots 084-102  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.

Demolished





902-938 Durham

W-12

100

[05]193 0211 N N N 32

B-4696

902-938 N. Durham St.

BALTO. MD

W. Nield

8/96

MD SHPO

1/2





914

916  
R. Taylor

914 Durham

W72

B-4696

914. N. Durham St.

BALTO. MD

W. A. Nield

8/96

2/2

104193 0211 N N N 32

180